

telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 221 APRIL 2000

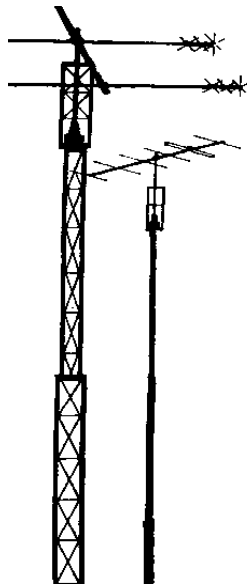
PRB-1 Bill Introduced In New York

A bill has been introduced in the New York State Assembly to codify the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 in New York State law. Assembly bill A. 9947 would require localities to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas and would prevent localities from restricting antenna structures to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of support structures.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says New York hams now have the chance to enact a law to "solve most of our tower problems." According to Fallon, the bill represents two years of work by his Hudson Division PRB-1 Task Force, which spearheaded the bill's development as well as a strategy to get it enacted. The Task Force used other successful state PRB-1 bills as models and had assistance from ARRL Headquarters Fallon's staff and all three ARRL section managers in the Hudson Division stand squarely behind the measure. Support also has been obtained from Atlantic Division section managers in New York, and plans are under way for a statewide promotional effort.

Ten states have PRB-1 laws in place. New York joins California and Kansas among the list of states that have pending PRB-1 legislation. The New York measure is one of the few to specify a minimum antenna height.

The bill, introduced March 7, is in the Committee on Local



April Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. and Hawkins Ave.) on Thursday, April 6, 2000. All interested in amateur radio are invited; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.



As spring is coming on, we will be discussing many of our plans for summer events such as hamfests, Field Day, Erie County Fair display, public service events, etc.

For our program, we are planning a talk about the relatively new mode of PSK-31.

Governments, which must vote on the measure before it goes to the full Assembly. Assuming the measure makes it past both chambers, it would go to Gov George Pataki--a former amateur--for his signature.

Fallon is urging clubs and individuals to contact their New York State lawmakers--Assembly and Senate--to cosponsor or support A. 9947. Echoing the PRB-1 language, it would provide that any ordinance impacting the placement, screening or height of antennas "must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the political subdivision's legitimate purpose."

The bill also would prohibit any local ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation, or other local law from restricting Amateur Radio support structure height to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of antenna support structures.

For more information, contact ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon. N2FF. n2ff@arrl.org; 516-746-7652.

The ARRL Letter 3/24/2000

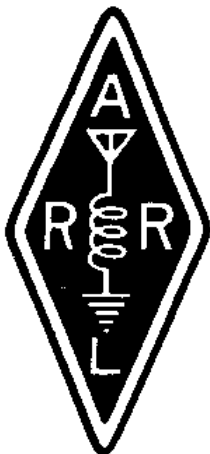
STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual Dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$10.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month) plus the \$5 initiation fee for a total of \$15.50.

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors at the business meeting. The applications are then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members should send their ARRL renewal memberships to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!



Club Nets

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

STARS VHF net meets at 7:30 PM on Thursdays on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/ .69 output/input— PL of 107.2 Hz) except on the first Thursday of the month (club meeting night).

From Your President

I wish to apologize to all of you for not making the regular March meeting. As all of you know my job is very unpredictable and I was just not able to make the meeting.

This month marks the passing of a well know and well liked member Norm Jones KD2KK. Norm was very active in the Club and was always there when we needed any help or guidance. He attended almost all Club work parties and functions and was always here when anyone needed a hand. Norm was one of the first Stars members to greet me at the first meeting I attended many years ago. With Norms passing he has left a mighty big pair of shoes to fill.

If you are planning to go to the Dayton Hamfest it still is not to late to make your plans but do not wait too long. As I wrote last year this is the granddaddy of all Hamfest so if you think you might want to go, do not wait too long.



Our plans for Field Day 2000 are going along nicely, this will take place the last full weekend in June. We all had a great time last year, and this year looks to be even better as we try out a new location.

As some of you may know a Bill regarding antennas is in the Assembly in Albany and is coming up for a vote real soon.

In a change from writing a repeater column this month, I will just add a few words here. The up time for both of our repeaters since the rebuild last year has been 100%. My thanks go out to all members that have helped out at work parties and supplied us with materials that we have needed. As voted on at the March meeting we will be adding a control function so you will be able to link both of our repeaters together. Just as soon as we can work out the programming bugs I will let you know what the code is for the linking.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on April 6th 7pm at the Hamburg Youth Center, till then 73's

Gary
Kb2yj
President/ Repeater Chairman

Big Crowd for VE Exams

STARS VE team hosted one of their biggest sessions in recent years when they served 38 applicants at their session on March 11, 2000.

The candidates overall were very successful. Three earned new Technician class licenses. Four more upgraded to Technician Plus, and one upgraded to Extra class. Ten more passed the General theory exam and will be eligible to upgrade to General class on or after April 15. Eight others passed the Extra class theory exam and will be eligible to upgrade to Extra class on or after April 15.

Thanks go to all of the VE's who helped out: Bill Klepser, Jr. WB2AIV, Joe Prockton N2BGJ, John Czuba W2IV, Bill Pike K2ILH, Joe Lazzaro N1EAH, Dan Rozek W2CQX, Jim Livingston N2SKT, Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT, Mark Johnston KE2YQ, Frank Green WZ2J and Terry Rockhold K2OO.

Another big crowd is expected at the next STARS VE session on April 15. This is the first day that people can bring their paperwork in to apply for upgrades under the new FCC rules. It is also the first day that the exams using the new question pools will be given. Tests will be given for Technician, General and Extra theory and for 5 wpm Morse code.



John Dilivio - K2CF participates in the ARRL International DX Contest (March 4th & 5th) from the STARS Nike Base Club Station. John operated single band 15 Meters. There to help out were KD2QV, W2IV, KC2DGC, and KD2KK. Photo taken by Rick - KD2QV

Norm Jones KD2KK SK

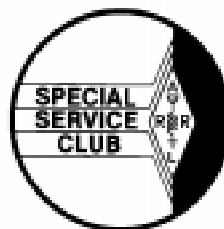
STARS members were saddened with the unexpected death of Norm Jones KD2KK on March 15.

Norm had been a STARS member for many, many years and was always active in many events such as repeater work parties, Field Day, Erie County Fair Display, etc. Norm had served as a VE team contact person and could always be counted on to help out at VE exams. In 1999, Norm was elected as a Life Member of STARS for all of the years of service he provided the club.

Norm was also very active with the Masons organization.

We will all miss Norm very much!

STARS is an ARRL Special Service Club!



STARS Board Meeting - February 24, 2000.

Shown in picture from left to right: Gary Zanghi KB2YJ, Dave Baco WA2TVT, John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC and Paul Jlyan WB2KFL. Photo taken by Rick - KD2QV

"PACKET RACKET"

an introduction to packet radio, part 14

The utility of any BBS is measured by its users judgement of how the BBS supports the other areas of amateur radio they are interested in.

BBSVW aims to cover a wide range of interests, not the least of which is Dxing. One of the most powerful servers available, in addition to the International callbook (ICB), and the numerous Dx databases available to the connected user, is the Dx server.

This server, for those of you familiar with the DxClusters, is a combined SH/QLS (Manager) and GOLIST utility. This server will provide current QSL Manager/home address information not yet found in the conventional callbooks/databases. The information in this server is updated at a minimum of once every 2 weeks, as opposed to the GOLIST, which is updated monthly. This server can be accessed either while connected to the BBS, or remotely, while connected to another BBS/DxCluster.

Let's look at the remote request (connected elsewhere) first. To get information on a Dx station, you need to send a private message to the server at KE2VW. When prompted for your title (subject), type the list of Dx callsigns you are looking for information on, separated by a comma between each. When prompted for the message, you can enter more callsigns, but **ONLY ONE PER LINE!** For example:

```

title:      SP REQDX @ KE2VW
message:    UN2P,ZP6CW,PY5BI
            SV1AKX
            3D2CT
            PJ9JT
            etc, etc.
            ^Z (control Z), or /EX to end the message.

```

The BBS will process your request, and automatically send it back to you, to the BBS/Cluster you originated this request from!

To access this server, while connected to BBSVW, the process is even easier. Simply type: IDX callsign1,callsign2, callsign3, etc. This will give you the desired Dx QSL information in real-time. Although I update this utility every 1 to 2 weeks, it will be only as good, as you are willing to help keep it current! How do you update the data contained in this server?

Send the BBS a message in the following format:
SP DX @ KE2VW

When prompted for the title (subject) type: DX UPDATE.
Start the body of the text (message) out with: BEGIN

DATA. Make sure this is on a line by itself!

Enter your data (as shown below) starting with the Dx callsign, followed by the date of your information (YYMMDD format only), and finish with your callsign, which ends the second line of the message.

Then enter the Dx data. Follow this with END DATA on a line by itself! End the message in the usual fashion, with a ^Z, or /EX, again, on a line by itself.

Sound confusing?.. Well one picture is worth a thousand words..

```

SP DX @ KE2VW
title (subject):  DX UPDATE
message:          BEGIN DATA
                  KB2NQK,000329,WB2RAJ
(This example says that WB2RAJ heard the rare Dx station
KB2NQK on 3/29/00. NOTE: There are no spaces between
the data, including before & after the
commas. Spaces will kill your updates!)
                  Michelle Young, KB2NQK
                  S-8590 Phillips Road
                  Holland, NY, 14080
                  END DATA
                  ^Z

```

Your update, with your callsign being given the credit, will be sent out Internationally, back to the source of the data for the Clusters. Don't be surprised to see your callsign as the credited source for information contained in the SH/QLS, etc utility next time you are logged into one of the DxClusters.

For those of you that enjoy following the birds, you will find our REQuest KEPLerian elements server to be most

(Continued on page 5)

STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	Rick Doherty	KD2QV
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Finc. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Dave Baco	WA2TVT
Director	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Director	Paul Julyan	WB2KFL

President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ may be reached at Kb2yj@aol.com or by calling 549-8476

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions on 4/15, 5/13 and 7/8 in 2000 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM. Walk-ins are allowed (space available), but pre-registering will reduce time at exams. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865 or Tony Balas, Jr. KB2OUT at 992-2011.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions at the Aurora Middle School, Lancaster, NY on , 4/12, 5/10 (no tests, upgrade paperwork only), 6/14, 7/12 in 2000. For information on Lancaster exams, call Chuck Koester WD2AIK at 937-3592.

ARATS will be holding test sessions at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. on 4/15 (no tests, upgrade paperwork only), 5/6 and 6/10 in 2000. For information on ARATS exams, call Vern Siegel AA2AC at 693-5977 (days) and 634-5276 (nights).

Most sessions except for STARS non-hamfest exams, do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

(Continued from page 4)

useful. This server will allow you to have desired Keplerian elements, satellite documentation, or satellite beacon frequencies sent to you, in the form of a message from the BBS!

The format to initiate a message to yourself is:

```
SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < yourcall
title: /parameter @ yourhomeBBS
message: /EX
```

The parameters you may use (only ONE per request however!) are:

/A -> provides you with a numerical list of the satellites available.

/D -> provides you with the satellite documentation available.

/F -> provides you with the beacon frequencies of satellites that are available.

/N -> provides you with the numerical listing of satellites available.

/S -> provides you the actual Keplerian elements on the desired satellite!

For example: If KB2NQK, whose home BBS is KE2VW, wants a listing of satellite files available on BBSVW, she would send this note:

```
SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQK
/A @ KE2VW
/EX
```

She would get a receive a message back, in this form:

```
SP KB2NQK @ KE2VW < KE2VW
REQKEP: /A*
There are __ objects in the KE2VW satellites data base.
Alphabetical list #1
Name Object day reference year
AO-10 14129 299 94
AO-13 19216 358 94
AO-21 21087 360 94
DO-17 20440 278 94
IO-26 22826 299 94
etc, etc.
```

She could qualify her note, by limiting the search for weather satellites only, by typing this message:

```
SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQK
/A @ KE2VW
MET <- This is where you would put any qualifiers (when
prompted for the message text, OTHERWISE LEAVE THE
MESSAGE TEXT SECTION BLANK, TYPING IN ONLY
the /EX!!)
/EX
```

The reply would be:

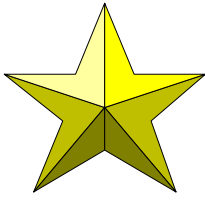
```
SP KB2NQK @ KE2VW < KE2VW
REQKEP: /A MET
There are __ objects in the KE2VW satellites data base.
Alphabetical list #1
Name Object day reference year
MET-2/17 18820 301 94
MET-2/18 19851 352 94
MET-3/2 19336 352 94
etc, etc.
```

For the desired Keplerian elements, she would send this note:

```
SP REQKEP @ KE2VW < KB2NQK
/S @ KE2VW
AO-21 (if that was the satellite she wanted the keys on)
Again this is the qualifying statement.
/EX
```

That gives you the idea! The other parameters all work the same way.

Until next time, 73, and keep those packets flying!
Greg, KE2VW, SysOp of the STARS KE2VW BBS
c 1995



STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input, with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 out/in, with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 107.2 Hz.)

CLUB PACKET

The STARS KE2VW BBS, located in Colden, NY is accessible on 145.61 MHz or 145.65 MHz (indirect) by typing: C BBSVW, using 1200 baud. Or connect using 19.2K baud on 441.050 MHz (direct)

Using a telephone modem, you can reach the STARS KE2VW BBS by calling 537-9334.

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATIONS

The club Nike Base HF Station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena. The station is operated on most Saturdays between 1 and 3 PM local time. A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cmp-express.com/stars/>

STARS

Terry W. Rockhold K200
4805 Transit Road #1903
Depew, NY 14043
(716) 656-0865
k2oo@bigfoot.com